

First Phase of Torrance High Expansion Launched

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Torrance Herald

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POLICE SAY BOOKIE RING NIPPED

Headquarters For Bookies Hit in Raid

Arrest of a San Pedro man with a "bank" of more than \$3,000 by Torrance and Sheriff's vice squad officers Tuesday night was credited with the smashing of a \$4,000-a-day bookie ring which had just moved into Torrance.

Jailed in the raid was Edward Kay, 50, of San Pedro, who was arrested in an apartment at 25206 Loytan Ave in Waleria.

Lt. D. C. Cook, who was joined by Sheriff's deputies in the raid, said it appeared the Waleria apartment was used solely as a headquarters for a booking operation. It did not appear that anyone resided there, he said.

Special Hours Announced Here By Postmaster

Torrance Postmaster Clara A. Conner has announced the following window service hours during the Christmas season:

Saturday, Dec. 9, until 5:30 p.m. No window service on Dec. 10. Monday, Dec. 11, through Tuesday, Dec. 19, until 6 p.m., except for service on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Windows open at 8:30 a.m. each day.

The above hours of service will be observed at the Main post office, 1433 Marcelina Ave., the Post Office Annex, 3611 Torrance Blvd., North Torrance Station, 17415 Crenshaw Blvd., and the Waleria Station, 4110 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Normal hours of service, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., will be resumed on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Artists Invited To Enter Showing

Artists who wish to submit paintings in the Peninsula Gallery's special showing, "Christ and Christmas," may contact Mrs. Inez Staff, gallery manager, at FR 8-7033. The exhibit will run throughout the month. Works need not be for sale, she said.

WEATHER

Heavy fog blanketed the city at the dinner hour last night, slowing traffic to a crawl. Forecast was for clear skies today.

By Projects

Capacity of High School Will Double

Plans for doubling Torrance High School's capacity within three years made a major advance with the awarding of a \$437,000 contract for the school's new administration building.

The Torrance Board of Education accepted the bid from Packard Construction Co. of Los Angeles, after rejecting an earlier bid of \$463,000 from

the same firm last February. Simplification of plans made the lower bid possible.

At its meeting Monday night, the board also approved preliminary plans for a new Torrance Elementary School to be located adjacent to the present Torrance Elementary School. Specifications were prepared by Roy Donley and Associates. The new site was recently acquired from the Navy.

Hospital Firehouse Approved

County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved final plans for a \$52,270 county fire station at Harbor General Hospital.

The existing structure on the hospital grounds will be razed and replaced with a single-story plaster building of 1,904 square feet. Included will be an apparatus room, office, bunk room, locker and shop rooms, and a combination recreation and dining room.

Plans also call for relocation of an existing hose-drying tower to the new site.

Specifications for the new facility will be withheld until construction funds are available, according to county engineer John A. Lambie.

ACCORDING to S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent in charge of business, the building will cost \$696,779, with an additional \$152,947 required for site preparation.

Conversion of the present elementary school building to a high school facility will be made after completion of the new site.

IN OTHER school board action, members rejected as being too high, all bids for a track and football field at West High and called for bidding to be reopened.

Decision on plans for four or five portable classrooms at Victor School was postponed after several board members objected to the advisability of constructing such units. Some board members went on record as favoring permanent rather than portable classrooms.

Debs in Top Post

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously re-elected Ernest E. Debs chairman at Tuesday's session.

Representative of the third district, Debs again will seek election as a supervisor in next June's primary. He is a former Los Angeles city councilman.

Police Slate

Bike Auction

On Saturday

The annual pre-Christmas bike auction staged by the Torrance Police Department will be held Saturday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. on the Arlington Ave. side of the Torrance City Park, it was announced yesterday by Chief Percy Bennett.

The department has 22 bikes to be auctioned on an "as is" basis, Chief Bennett said. Some are in good shape, some need repair, he added. The bikes are those which have been unclaimed at the department for a fixed period of time.

A few other miscellaneous items are to be auctioned at the same time, Bennett indicated.

'Never Saw Anything Like it,' Woman Says of Missile Shot

You can get plenty of thrills from sky-watching—especially if the Air Force just happens to launch a missile at the time you're doing it.

Thousands of Southlanders

turned their eyes to the western sky Tuesday evening to watch a spectacular, though brief drama never before seen in this area.

The show—in brilliant color—was put on by a Thor intermediate-range missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base by a British training crew from the Royal Air Force.

ONE OF THE lucky viewers to see the whole performance, was Mrs. James Baudin, 2208 Arlington Ave., who was sitting at her front room window at the time of the launching (9:29 p.m.).

"I was looking straight west," she says, "and saw a great silver streak go up into the sky. It zigzagged and turned red. Then it turned a beautiful greenish blue and got big all of a sudden at one end—just like when you blow up a balloon.

"Then something red left the 'balloon' and went up into the sky real slow. It got quite dark,

then seemed to come down very slowly till it disappeared."

HER REACTION? "Never saw anything like it in all my born days—and I'm 66! I called two or three friends so they could see it. I thought it was an airplane doing some new kind of skywriting. I've never seen such beautiful colors."

A lot of other viewers were not so calm, however, and police department and newspaper switchboards were besieged with calls.

THE FIERY display was seen for hundreds of miles, from Costa Mesa to San Francisco, and from Las Vegas to Phoenix. Scientific explanation for the phenomenon was that the missile trail stayed low in the atmosphere, where an unusually strong trail resulted from humidity combined with cold air. The trail was illuminated by the sun's rays from below the horizon.

The incandescent spot that flared suddenly was explained as ignition of a second stage of the missile. The Thor carried no military load.

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A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think the mayor of a city such as Torrance should have veto power over the city council?" the Pennies photographer asked.

D. J. Thomsen, 1447 El Prado Ave.

"I've never approved of one person having veto powers over the majority. I don't approve of this in the United Nations. I feel it's minority rule when you have the veto power."

H. J. Smith, Torrance:

"I can't see it. It's not a good idea because if the mayor gets on out with the council he can override anything good the council wants to do. I've traveled throughout the nation, there's only nine states I haven't been in, and I've never run into such a situation."

Arthur L. McLaughlin, 17024 Western Ave.

"No, I don't think the mayor should have such power. What good is a city council if it's set up like a one-man operation. The mayor having veto powers is more like a dictatorship."

Albert Saleido, 2836 W. 176th St.

"No, I think the decision should be spread out over the entire council instead of having all the power in one man. Such a veto policy doesn't make for good politics."

Mrs. Edwin Cubberly, Gardena:

"No, I don't feel there would be any object in having a city council if the mayor had the right of veto over the city council."

Special Fete Set at Church This Weekend

Special observance will be paid to Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Joseph Mission Church, 2314 Del Amo Blvd., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Friday and Saturday special services will be held with a Spanish sermon by Father Cuello of the Vincennes. Sunday's observance will feature the traditional Mananitas at 6 a.m., High Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a day of fast and a solemn procession 2 p.m. Mexican food will be served throughout the day. The public is invited.

Split Board Rejects Anti-Red School Bid

Torrance School Board members stood on legal ground Monday evening as they rejected a request that Torrance High School seniors be dismissed early from classes Dec. 15 to attend anti-Communist lectures.

A petition, containing 250 signatures, asked for sanction of early dismissal and school transportation to Project Alert, a lecture series sponsored by the Navy and Marine League Dec. 11 through 15 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. In a 2-2 tie vote (board member Bert Lynn was absent), the school board was unable to

legally excuse from afternoon classes seniors who wished to attend the program. Insurance problems and rescheduling of buses throughout the district, made necessary if the schools furnished transportation, also ruled out the request.

Board member Albert Charles also moved that teachers announce to their students that Project Alert will be televised.

Voting with Charles was Dr. Kurt Shery. "No" votes were voiced by chairman William Hanson and William Boswell.

The petition was presented by Jerry Leonard.



CHARTER MEMBER . . . Jean Clawson receives certificate from Bill Forrest for becoming one of the first members of the YMCA's "Century Club," in the current support campaign for 1962. She is the only woman on the YMCA board of managers, and gained admittance to the club by donating \$100 to the YMCA campaign. "Adding \$100 to the YMCA youth program will add 100 joys to the spirit of youth and to your life," she said. (Herald Photo)